

From: marcus cole
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:57am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my opposition to the proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust trial. It fails to redress the harm the company has inflicted on the software market as a result of leveraging its monopoly position as demonstrated in the Findings of Fact.

One of the most significant results of this illegal activity is 'vendor lock-in'. Consumers have become tied to Microsoft products because of the lack of alternatives. In order to remedy this situation, I believe that the best solution is to force Microsoft to publish its document formats and programming interfaces, and make these available to the public and competitors 6 months before any proposed changes. Importantly, the public and competitors must be allowed use of copyrighted and patented interfaces and formats for the purpose of interoperability. This single step would leave Microsoft free to innovate while allowing competition from other software vendors based on the merits of the product, rather than any historical market share earned through illegal means.

While the Court's desire that a settlement be reached is well-intentioned, it is wrong to reach an unjust settlement just for settlement's sake.

Sincerely,

Marcus Cole